

# THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

Vd. 9 Issue 3



## In this issue:

- [Field School investigation incorporates oral history](#)
- [Four NH properties named to the National Register of Historic Places...](#)
- [...And four named to the NH State Register of Historic Places, too](#)
- [Barn Committee Summer 2017 field visits](#)
- [North Country Covered Bridge Tour](#)
- [ACHP's fall Section 106 online classes open for registration](#)
- [NH State Library's 300th anniversary is a media darling](#)
- [Stay involved in historic preservation](#)
- [Contact us](#)

---

### **Field School investigation incorporates oral history**

As this summer transitioned to fall, archaeologists from the NHDHR and a team of enthusiastic field school volunteers completed this year's



*(from left) Oral historian Jo Radner, Abby Brown Frizzell and NHDHR Archaeologist David Trubey at Livermore Hollow*

excavation of what is thought to have been the last house in Livermore Hollow. Although many questions remain - including what happened to the other houses in this once-thriving mid-19th century mill village on the Pemigewasset River – an image of what life was like there is beginning to emerge.

The excavation, funded by FEMA's Storm Recovery and Disaster Planning Grant Program, focused on the house's cellar hole and yielded numerous artifacts of everyday life including a clay pipe, glass ink well, buttons, marbles, ceramics, a WWI-era cigarette lighter, coins and a seemingly infinite number of nails. These artifacts are currently being analyzed to help determine the history of the house and its occupancy.

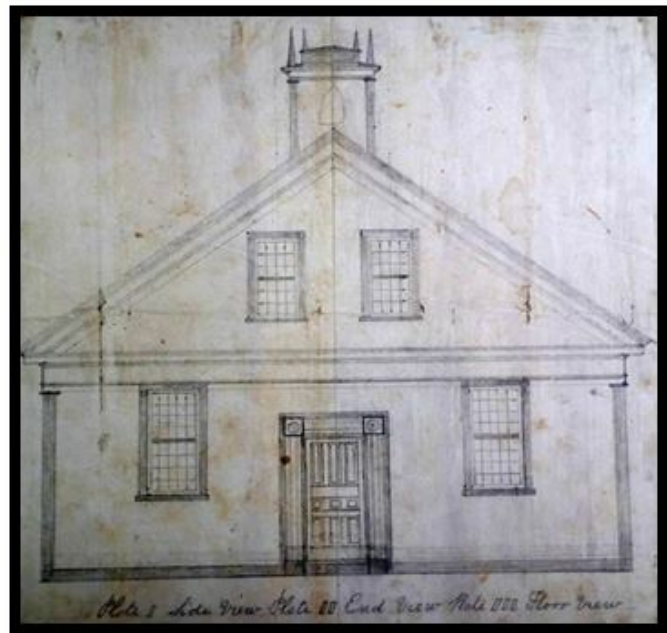
A highlight of the excavation was a visit by Mrs. Abby Brown Frizzell, who during the early years of her life called the house home. As part of the project's oral history component, Mrs. Frizzell graciously agreed to be interviewed about her time growing up in the Hollow with her parents and four siblings. She explained that her house was the only standing structure in the Hollow by the early 1940s. Owned by a local mill company, the house had no insulation, electricity or running water. Despite the lack of amenities, she recounted fond memories of her childhood there and described the Hollow as a "wonderful place to live and play."

As for the missing houses, this year's excavation confirmed that the Hollow experienced numerous and extensive flooding, which deposited as much as three feet of soil at some locations. It is possible that the foundations of these houses are now buried. The team hopes to return to the Hollow next summer to investigate this theory and to examine a recently discovered Native American component of this site.



*(from left) A clay pipe, ink bottle and WWI-era cigarette lighter are just some of the artifacts discovered at Livermore Hollow in 2017*

## Places...



(Clockwise, from upper left) Conway Public Library, Emery Farm, Enfield Center Town House, Milford Suspension Bridge

New Hampshire's historical properties are diverse and the NHDHR is proud to announce four that have most recently been honored by the United States Secretary of the Interior with placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Built circa 1740, **Emery Farm in Stratham** first served as Chase's Tavern and was a center for business, community and government affairs. The property's 2½ story house retains Georgian-style and Greek Revival features, a large gable-front post and beam barn that still has two cow stalls and an attached corn crib, and remnants of the late-19th to early-20th century irrigation system remain in place. It was the home of Stratham's first market gardener as well as his son, who the *Boston Sunday Globe* called the state's oldest in 1955 when he was 88.

**Conway Public Library** has served as a center of learning and a source of community identity for Conway since its construction in 1900. Its granite foundation, brick exterior, brownstone windowsills and portico define it as a Neoclassical building. The library's prominent exterior feature is a large clock tower with four clock faces and a copper-domed roof. Alterations to the original building are few and the



floor plan has changed little over time.

The **Enfield Center Town House's** pedimented gable front, original sash windows and nine-panel door, corner pilasters, white clapboards and louvered shutters are all characteristic of the Greek Revival style that was popular in the early and mid-19th century. The building underwent renovations in 1909 that expanded its functionality, turning the hall into both a theater and dance venue. The last town meeting held at Enfield Center Town Hall took place in 1916.

Built in 1889 at a time when foot traffic across rivers was the norm in New Hampshire's small villages, the **Milford Suspension Bridge** is made primarily from riveted iron angles and bars, riveted lattice girders, suspension cables, a wooden floor and irregular split granite block abutments. The bridge, which made it easy to travel from the residential neighborhoods on the east side of the river to the manufacturing complexes, business district, town hall and high school on the west side, has been in nearly continuous use since it was built.

Among other benefits, listing to the National Register in New Hampshire makes applicable property owners eligible for grants such as the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program or LCHIP ([lchip.org](http://lchip.org)) and the Conservation License Plate Program ([nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose)).

For more information on the National Register program in New Hampshire, please visit [nh.gov/nhdhr](http://nh.gov/nhdhr) and click on "Programs" or contact Peter Michaud at the NHDHR, 603-271-3583.

---

## ...And four named to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, too

The NHDHR is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added four properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

Host to the town clock, **Farmington's First Congregational Church** is an excellent example of Gothic Revival style with beautiful stained glass windows. It is the earliest identified commission for architect Frederick Nathaniel Footman, who was born in Somersworth and went on to design such notable buildings as the Strafford County Alms House, Laconia High School and the American Brewing Company in Boston.

The **Stevens-Currier House in Wentworth** is a well-preserved example of an 18th-century cape, which was the most common type of house in the town through 1850. Records indicate that it may have been built by the local blacksmith, who relocated with his family to Wentworth on an ox sled. As with many farms in the area, it was later used as a summer home.

Built in 1829-30, the Federal style **Wentworth Congregational Church** was divided internally into two floors in 1867 in response to the Toleration Act of 1819, which required municipal and religious services to have separate venues. A landmark on the town common, the church is noteworthy for its prominent three-stage tower, which incorporates urns, balustrades, fluted Doric pilasters and other architectural details.

**Nashua's St. Francis Xavier Church** was built in 1898 for the industrial city's

growing Franco-American community. An uncommon New Hampshire example of the Norman Gothic Revival style, it is considered the most ambitious church designed by Timothy O'Connell of the architectural firm Chickering and O'Connell, which specialized in church design.

Anyone wishing to nominate a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places must research the history of the nominated property and document it fully on an individual inventory form from the NHDHR. Having a property listed in the State Register offers a number of benefits but does not impose restrictions on property owners. For more information, visit [nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state\\_register.html](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state_register.html).



*(Clockwise, from upper left) Farmington First Congregational Church, the Stevens-Currier House in Wentworth, Wentworth Congregational Church, St. Francis Xavier Church in Nashua*

---

## **Barn Committee Summer 2017 field visits**

Here at the NHDHR,  
one of summer's most

anticipated activities is the Barn Committee's field trip to assist and encourage barn owners who are grappling with challenging barn repairs or adaptive reuse questions.

This year, Barn Committee members visited two very different barns, one in Grantham and the

other in Croydon. The first barn owner – of a double English barn dating from the early 1800s – recently purchased the property and is at the start of the repair process. The second owner has almost completed repairs of an immense early 20th century horse barn after years of effort and investment.



*Visiting a landmark barn off Route 10 in Croydon*

The Barn Committee is one of the advisory groups attached to the NHDHR. Established by the Legislature in 1999, membership includes representatives from the fields of conservation and preservation. See <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/barns.html> for more information.



*Sen. Woodburn and NHDHR staff members meet members of the Columbia Bridge family*

## **North Country Covered Bridge Tour**

On September 28, the Division of Historical Resources joined Sen. Jeff Woodburn for a tour of covered bridges in Senate District 1, where about one-quarter of the state's 54 covered bridges

are located. The day kicked off at the Sentinel Pine Covered Bridge at The Flume and ended eight bridges later at the Bacon Covered Bridge, one of three in Pittsburg.

Throughout the day, local residents, visitors and officials discussed the history behind each structure and the challenges and opportunities of preserving them. New Hampshire's covered bridges may invoke nostalgia, but most are still working bridges, serving as important vehicular crossings.

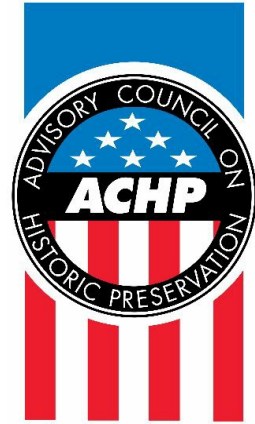


The visit to the Columbia Bridge (pictured) included family members whose ancestors had helped build it, and a married couple who had grown up as neighbors – one on the New Hampshire side of the bridge, the other on the Vermont side. Covered bridges join people in many ways!

---

## **ACHP's fall Section 106 online classes open for registration**

Now it's easy to stay up on the very latest in historic preservation best practices, and you don't even have to travel to do so. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation offers on-demand eLearning courses on a wide variety of topics, including "What is Section 106?" "Basics of NEPA and Section 106 Integration," "Successfully Navigating Section 106 Review" and more. Some are free and others have a small cost. Course lengths range from 15 to 45 minutes; courses of 30 minutes or more offer a certificate of completion.



ACHP has scheduled webinars this fall as well. Two different topics will be addressed:

- "Meeting the Reasonable and Good Faith Identification Standard in Section 106 Review"; November 2, 11 a.m. Eastern and Nov. 7, 2 p.m. (2 sessions)
- "Cultural Landscapes: Identification and Effects Assessment"; Dec. 12, 11 a.m. Eastern and Dec. 14, 3 p.m. (2 sessions)

To learn more, visit the [ACHP website](#) and click on "Training and Education."

---

## **NH State Library's 300th anniversary is a media darling**

We mentioned to readers in Vol. 9, issue 1 of *The Old Stone Wall* that 2017 is the 300th anniversary of the New Hampshire State Library being established. It's the first state library in America, founded before New Hampshire was a state and the United States was a country.

Like the NHDHR, the State Library is a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and we're pretty excited about the attention the Library's tricentennial has been getting, not just in New Hampshire but also nationwide. In September, [C-SPAN began airing a segment](#) taped during its "Cities Tour" to Concord, in which State Librarian Michael York discussed the library's history and showed off some special items in its collection. Then on September 25, the State Library was an \$800 clue in the "Librarians" category during the first round of *Jeopardy!* And, yes, the contestant got the answer correct on the first try!



UP CONCORD WAY  
STATE LIBRARIAN  
MICHAEL YORK  
IS CELEBRATING THE  
TRICENTENNIAL OF  
THIS STATE LIBRARY,  
THE USA'S OLDEST

*State Librarian Michael York is interviewed by C-SPAN (left); \$800 question in the "Librarians" category on Jeopardy! (right)*

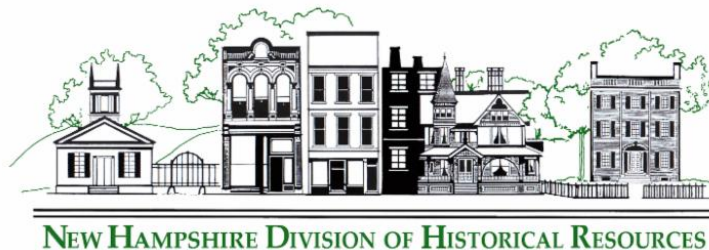
---

## Stay involved in historic preservation

Between issues of *The Old Stone Wall*, you can remain active in New Hampshire's preservation community. Good places to start are your local community's historic and preservation organizations, the [NH History Network](#) and the [NH Preservation Alliance website](#).

---

*The lead photo for this edition of The Old Stone Wall is of Center Cemetery in Chester and was submitted to ["My New Hampshire"](#) by Jackie Brown.*



---

*Working together to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through education, stewardship and protection.*

603-271-3483 | 603-271-3433 (fax)

[preservation@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:preservation@dcr.nh.gov) | [nh.gov/nhdhr](http://nh.gov/nhdhr)

[@NHDHR\\_SHPO](#)

[@My\\_NewHampshire](#)

YouTube: [NH Division of Historical Resources](#)

---

*This newsletter has been financed in part with a federal Historic Preservation Fund matching grant from the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources/State Historic Preservation Office. However, its contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. The State of New Hampshire (under RSA 275 and RSA 354-a) prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability or national origin. Any person who believes that he or she has been*



*discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance  
should write to: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW,  
Washington DC, 20240.*